

1 APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

2 ON INVENTION FOR:

3 CASE INDICATIVE OF SPECIFIC GREENS OF A SPECIFIC GOLF COURSE
4 FOR DISPLAYING GOLF BALLS ON TEES

5 BY INVENTOR: Michael F. Manka &
6 Joseph Maggio

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8 Agt. Doc. No.: MANM29A

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10 RICHARD L. MILLER
11 REGISTERED PATENT AGENT
12 12 PARKSIDE DRIVE
13 DIX HILLS, NEW YORK 11746-4879
14 PHONE: (631) 499-4343

15 *****

16 TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

17 BE IT KNOWN that I, Michael F. Manka, a citizen of
18 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and resident of: Chicago, IL
19 60608-5614 and Joseph Maggio, a citizen of THE UNITED STATES
20 OF AMERICA and resident of: Hickory Hills, IL 60457 have
21 invented certain new and useful improvements in a(n): CASE
22 INDICATIVE OF SPECIFIC GREENS OF A SPECIFIC GOLF COURSE FOR
23 DISPLAYING GOLF BALLS ON TEES of which the following is a
24 full, clear, concise and exact description:

1 Inventor: Michael F. Manka and Joseph Maggio
2 Invention: CASE INDICATIVE OF SPECIFIC GREENS OF A SPECIFIC
3 GOLF COURSE FOR DISPLAYING GOLF BALLS ON TEES
4 DOC. No.: MANM29A

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

6 Field of the Invention:

7 The present invention relates to a display case. More particularly,
8 the present invention relates to a case indicative of specific greens of
9 a specific golf course for displaying golf balls on tees.

10 Description of the Prior Art:

11 Numerous innovations for display cases have been provided in the
12 prior art that will be described. Even though these innovations may be
13 suitable for the specific individual purposes to which they address,
14 however, they differ from the present invention.

15 A FIRST EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,058,733 to Lowe teaches a
16 rectangular housing for a buckle less belt used in the marshall arts to
17 denote expertise in that marshall art. The housing is designed to contain
18 a belt in a coiled state. The belt is coiled around a centrally
19 positioned cylindrical post. A portion of the belt may be held in
20 position either on the post by means of a medallion denoting the specific
21 marshall art sport or loosely coiled to fit firmly against the sides of
22 the housing. The medallion is circular with a diameter larger than the
23 post and is centrally attached to and positioned on the distal end of the
24 post. The post is fixedly attached to the back wall of the housing.

25 A SECOND EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,377,829 to Bahl teaches a
26 football display case comprising a base in a rectangular configuration
27 having an upper surface and a lower surface, the base being sanded,

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1 stained and finished with polyurethane; a piece of plywood in a
2 rectangular configuration having an upper and lower surface and glued at
3 its lower surface to the upper surface of the base; a piece of artificial
4 turf in a rectangular configuration having an upper surface and a lower
5 surface and glued at its lower surface to the upper surface of the
6 plywood, the piece of turf having a length and width essentially the same
7 as that of the plywood; four apertures formed in the base, plywood and
8 turf in a rectangular configuration, the four dowels located in the
9 apertures to an extent upwardly for holding a football on the dowels; and
10 an oak frame resting on the base, the frame having a rectangular upper
11 section with an external periphery greater than the plywood and turf but
12 less than the base, the frame also including four vertical posts coupled
13 at their upper ends to the rectangular upper section at its corners and
14 resting at its lower ends upon the turf and base.

15 A THIRD EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,715,947 to Gonzales teaches a
16 display case for storing and displaying golf balls. The display case is
17 in the shape of a pyramid. When displayed with golf balls, the inside
18 structure, which is the upper support surface that is connected to the
19 support base and mounts the golf balls, also has the appearance of a
20 pyramid thereon. The upper support surface that is attached to the
21 support base of the storage and display case, includes a plurality of
22 members of different lengths separately arranged and mounted in a vertical
23 fashion representing a pyramid, each member supports each golf ball. The
24 upper support surface is enclosed by a transparent cover that is also the
25 shape of a pyramid and is removable from the top, to place or retrieve the
26 golf balls therein. The support base is the bottom that supports the
27 storage and display case. The storage and display case, by its simple
28 design and attractive appearance, is considered a sculptured work of art
29 and collectors item by the golf ball collection that it displays. The
30 golf balls are mounted in a descending order from top to bottom, which may
31 be arranged to one's own personal preference or valued importance. The

1 golf ball storage and display case is easily displayed in the middle of
2 a room, on a office desk, a display table, an end table, or in a trophy
3 cabinet.

4 A FOURTH EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,868,249 to Ehnert teaches an
5 enclosed transparent display case for sports balls comprising a base
6 section removably attached to rounded top section which incorporates
7 rotatably affixed handle calipers to secure and suspend the sports ball
8 within the display case. The display case provides the ability to suspend
9 the ball within the interior of the display case and allow the ball to be
10 rotatably controlled by a viewer and observe the ball with a clear view
11 and a normal viewing angle without picking up the display or removing the
12 ball.

13 A FIFTH EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,971,826 to Delzompo et al.
14 teaches a system of display case modules that can be connected to form a
15 display case of variable size and configuration for displaying or storing
16 toys and toy action figures. A single display module has shelves to make
17 variable size compartments and has a clear front panel to allow viewing
18 of the toys, which are vertically stacked inside the display module. The
19 shelves can be varied in position so that various sizes of toys can be
20 displayed. In addition, the shelves are tilted slightly backward so that
21 toys lean against a back wall of the display module, thereby resting
22 upright. The display module also has connectors on its sides, top and
23 bottom so that the display module can be connected to other display
24 modules to make a larger display case. The connectors on the sides of the
25 display modules create a hinge mechanism to link display modules side by
26 side, such that the modules can be pivoted in various directions with
27 respect to each other. The connectors on the top and bottom of the
28 display modules permit multiple display modules to be stacked on top of
29 one another, or to be connected to an optional locking plate, facilitating
30 storage of multiple display modules as an integral toy chest.

1 A SIXTH EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. D 464,216 S to Rone teaches the
2 ornamental design for a golf ball display case.

3 It is apparent that numerous innovations for display cases have been
4 provided in the prior art that are adapted to be used. Furthermore, even
5 though these innovations may be suitable for the specific individual
6 purposes to which they address, however, they would not be suitable for
7 the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

2 ACCORDINGLY, AN OBJECT of the present invention is to provide a case
3 indicative of specific greens of a specific golf course for displaying
4 golf balls on tees that avoids the disadvantages of the prior art.

5 ANOTHER OBJECT of the present invention is to provide a case
6 indicative of specific greens of a specific golf course for displaying
7 golf balls on tees that is simple to use.

8 BRIEFLY STATED, STILL ANOTHER OBJECT of the present invention is to
9 provide a case indicative of specific greens of a specific golf course for
10 displaying golf balls on tees. The case includes a display case and golf
11 course-related elements sitting in the display case. The golf course-
12 related elements include at least one insert. Each insert has a through
13 bore replicating the hole in a specific green of a specific golf course
14 for holding a split tee teeing a golf ball, a top surface having indicia
15 thereon pictorially replicating a specific green of a specific golf
16 course, and a bottom surface having a portion of hook and loop fasteners
17 thereon. The portion of hook and loop fasteners on each insert
18 selectively mates with a sheet of a mating portion of hook and loop
19 fasteners in the display case so as to allow each insert to be
20 interchanged to replicate a specific green of a specific golf course.

21 The novel features which are considered characteristic of the
22 present invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention
23 itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation,
24 together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best
25 understood from the following description of the specific embodiments when
26 read and understood in connection with the accompanying drawing.

1

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

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The figures of the drawing are briefly described as follows:

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FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the present invention in use, with the top portion shown in phantom partly open;

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FIGURE 2 is a diagrammatic top plan view taken generally in the direction of arrow 2 in FIGURE 1, with the top portion closed;

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FIGURE 3 is an enlarged diagrammatic perspective view of one insert in the area generally enclosed by the dotted curve identified by arrow 3 in FIGURE 2; and

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FIGURE 4 is an enlarged diagrammatic cross sectional view taken along line 4-4 in FIGURE 2.

11

1		<u>LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS UTILIZED IN THE DRAWING</u>
2	10	case indicative of specific greens of specific golf course of
3		present invention for displaying golf balls 12 on tees 14
4	12	golf balls on tees 14
5	14	tees
6	16	display case
7	18	golf course-related elements
8	20	bottom portion of display case 16
9	22	top portion of display case 16
10	24	bottom wall of bottom portion 20 of display case 16
11	26	pair of side walls of bottom portion 20 of display case 16
12	28	rear wall of bottom portion 20 of display case 16
13	32	top wall of top portion 22 of display case 16
14	34	front wall of top portion 22 of display case 16
15	35	hinge of display case 16
16	36	at least one insert of golf course-related elements 18
17	38	top surface of each insert of at least one insert 36 of golf
18		course-related elements 18
19	40	bottom surface of each insert of at least one insert 36 of golf
20		course-related elements 18
21	41	indicia on top surface 38 of each insert of at least one insert
22		36 of golf course-related elements 18
23	42	through bore through each insert of at least one insert 36 of
24		golf course-related elements 18
25	44	portion of hook and loop fasteners on bottom surface 40 of each
26		insert of at least one insert 36 of golf course-related elements
27		18
28	46	sheet of mating portion of hook and loop fasteners covering
29		bottom wall 24 of bottom portion 20 of display case 16
30	48	split shaft of tee 14
31	50	matching socket in bottom wall 24

1 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

2 Referring now to the figures, in which like numerals indicate like
3 parts, and particularly to FIGURE 1, the case indicative of specific
4 greens of a specific golf course of the present invention is shown
5 generally at 10 for displaying golf balls 12 on tees 14.

6 The case 10 indicative of specific greens of a specific golf course
7 10 comprises a display case 16 and golf course-related elements 18. The
8 golf course-related elements 18 are disposed in the display case 16.

9 The display case 16 is generally rectangular-parallelepiped-shaped,
10 and has a bottom portion 20 and a top portion 22. The top portion 22 of
11 the display case 16 selectively closes the bottom portion 20 of the
12 display case 16.

13 The bottom portion 20 of the display case 16 has a bottom wall 24,
14 a pair of side walls 26 and a rear wall 28.

15 The top portion 22 of the display case 16 has a top wall 32 and a
16 front wall 34. The top wall 32 of the top portion 22 of the display case
17 16 is preferably transparent so as to allow seeing the golf-course related
18 elements 18 in the display case 16 from their tops when the top portion
19 22 of the display case 16 is closed.

20 The front wall 34 of the top portion 22 of the display case 16 is
21 also preferably transparent so as to allow seeing the golf-course related
22 elements 18 in the display case 16 from their sides when the top portion
23 22 of the display case 16 is closed.

24 The top wall 32 of the top portion 22 of the display case 16 is
25 hingedly attached, by hinge 35, to the rear wall 28 of the bottom portion
26 20 of the display case 16. The front wall 34 of the top portion 22 of the
27 display case 16 depends from the top wall 32 of the top portion 22 of the
28 display case 16 and overlies a front opening of the bottom portion 20 of
29 the display case 16 when the top portion 22 of the display case 16 is
30 closed.

1 The golf course-related elements 18 sit on the bottom wall 24 of the
2 bottom portion 20 of the display case 16.

3 The specific configuration of the golf course-related elements 18
4 can best be seen in FIGURES 2-4, and as such, will be discussed with
5 reference thereto.

6 The golf course-related elements 18 comprise at least one insert 36.
7 Each insert of the at least one insert 36 of the golf course-related
8 elements 18 replicates a specific green of a specific golf course, and is
9 preferably eighteen to replicate the eighteen holes of a standard golf
10 course.

11 Each insert of the at least one insert 36 of the golf course-related
12 elements 18 is generally flat and square-shaped, and has a top surface 38
13 and a bottom surface 40.

14 The top surface 38 of each insert of the at least one insert 36 of
15 the golf course-related elements 18 has indicia 41 thereon. The indicia
16 41 on the top surface 38 of each insert of the at least one insert 36 of
17 the golf course-related elements 18 pictorially replicates a specific
18 green of a specific golf course.

19 Each insert of the at least one insert 36 of the golf course-related
20 elements 18 further has a through bore 42. The through bore 42 extends
21 centrally through an associated insert of the at least one insert 36 of
22 the golf course-related elements 18 and replicates the hole in a specific
23 green of a specific golf course.

24 The bottom surface 40 of each insert of the at least one insert 36
25 of the golf course-related elements 18 has a portion of hook and loop
26 fasteners 44 thereon. The portion of hook and loop fasteners 44 on the
27 bottom surface 40 of each insert of the at least one insert 36 of the golf
28 course-related elements 18 selectively mates with a sheet of a mating
29 portion of hook and loop fasteners 46 that covers the bottom wall 24 of
30 the bottom portion 20 of the display case 16 (FIG. 4) so as to allow each
31 insert of the at least one insert 36 of the golf course-related elements

1 18 to be interchanged to replicate a specific green of a specific golf
2 course.

3 As shown in FIGURE 4, the through bore 42 in each insert of the at
4 least one insert 36 of the golf course-related elements 18 is receivable
5 of a tee 14 holdable of a golf ball 12 so as to replicate a tee in the
6 hole of a green of a standard golf course holding a golf ball.

7 The tee 14 has a split shaft 48 to provide a snugger compressive fit
8 in the through bore 42 in an insert of the at least one insert 36 of the
9 golf course-related elements 18 which it is received in a mating socket
10 50 in the bottom wall 24 of the bottom portion 20 of the display case 16.

11 It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or
12 two or more together, may also find a useful application in other types
13 of constructions differing from the types described above.

14 While the invention has been illustrated and described as embodied
15 in a case indicative of greens of a specific golf course for displaying
16 golf balls on tees, however, it is not limited to the details shown, since
17 it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions
18 and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and its
19 operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any
20 way from the spirit of the present invention.

21 Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the
22 gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current
23 knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting
24 features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute
25 characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.